

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for self-authenticating a marking agent cartridge,
2 wherein said method is comprised of the steps of:
3 installing an identification means on a marking agent cartridge;
4 installing said cartridge in a printer;
5 automatically reading said identification means on said cartridge by
6 said printer;
7 determining if said cartridge is a counterfeit; and
8 accepting/rejecting said cartridge.
- 1 2. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said marking agent is further
2 comprised of:
3 toner.
- 1 3. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said marking agent is further
2 comprised of:
3 ink.
- 1 4. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said identification means is
2 further comprised of:
3 a bar code.
- 1 5. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said identification means is
2 further comprised of:
3 a label.
- 1 6. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said step of installing an
2 identification means on said marking agent is further comprised of the steps
3 of:
4 forwarding first information regarding said identification means to a
5 database; and

6 compiling said first information in said database.

1 7. The method, as in Claim 6, wherein said determining step is further
2 comprised of the steps of:

3 automatically reading said identification means on said cartridge by
4 said printer in order to obtain second information regarding said identification
5 means; and

6 comparing said first information of said identification means with said
7 second information of said identification means.

1 8. The method, as in Claim 7, wherein said accepting/rejecting step is
2 further comprised of the steps of:

3 accepting said marking agent cartridge as being genuine if said first
4 information of said identification means substantially matches said second
5 information of said identification means; and

6 rejecting said marking agent cartridge as being counterfeit if said first
7 information of said identification means does not substantially match said
8 second information of said identification means.

1 9. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said method is further
2 comprised of the step of:

3 notifying a producer/supplier of said marking agent cartridge if said
4 marking agent cartridge is rejected as being counterfeit.

1 10. A method for self-authenticating a marking agent cartridge,
2 wherein said method is comprised of the steps of:

3 installing an identification means on a marking agent cartridge;
4 installing said cartridge in a printing device;

5 automatically reading said identification means on said cartridge by
6 said printing device;

7 determining if said cartridge is a counterfeit; and

8 accepting/rejecting said cartridge.

1 11. The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said marking agent is
2 further comprised of:
3 toner.

1 12. The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said marking agent is
2 further comprised of:
3 ink.

1 13. The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said identification means is
2 further comprised of:
3 a bar code.

1 14. The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said identification means is
2 further comprised of:
3 a label.

1 15. The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said step of installing an
2 identification means on said marking agent is further comprised of the steps
3 of:
4 forwarding first information regarding said identification means to a
5 database; and
6 compiling said first information in said database.

1 16. The method, as in Claim 15, wherein said determining step is
2 further comprised of the steps of:
3 automatically reading said identification means on said cartridge by
4 said printing device in order to obtain second information regarding said
5 identification means; and
6 comparing said first information of said identification means with said
7 second information of said identification means.

1 17 The method, as in Claim 16, wherein said accepting/rejecting step
2 is further comprised of the steps of:

3 accepting said marking agent cartridge as being genuine if said first
4 information of said identification means substantially matches said second
5 information of said identification means; and

6 rejecting said marking agent cartridge as being counterfeit if said first
7 information of said identification means does not substantially match said
8 second information of said identification means.

1 18. The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said method is further
2 comprised of the step of:

3 notifying a producer/supplier of said marking agent cartridge if said
4 marking agent cartridge is rejected as being counterfeit.